



MALDIVES



INTRODUCTION

A sultanate since the 12th century, the Maldives archipelago became a British protectorate in 1887. Three years after independence in 1965, the islands established themselves as a republic.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Ibrahim "Ibu" Mohamed SOLIH

Head of Government

President Ibrahim Mohamed SOLIH

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Male

Legislature

unicameral Parliament or People's Majlis (87 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

total: 298 sq km
land: 298 sq km
water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

Natural Resources

fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Indian Ocean island economy; major tourism, fishing, and shipping industries; high public debt; systemic corruption; crippled by COVID-19; ongoing deflation; poverty has tripled since pandemic began

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$7.05 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$13,000 (2020 est.)

Industries - tourism, fish processing, shipping, boat building, coconut processing, woven mats, rope, handicrafts, coral and sand mining

Agricultural products - papayas, vegetables, roots/tubers, nuts, fruit, other meat, tomatoes, coconuts, bananas, maize

Exports \$256.2 million (2016 est.)

fish products, natural gas, scrap iron, jewelry, liquid pumps (2019)

partners: Thailand 24%, US 13%, China 12%, France 11%, Germany 11%, Italy 5%, UK 5% (2019)

Imports \$2.125 billion (2016 est.)

refined petroleum, fruits, furniture, broadcasting equipment, lumber (2019)

partners: UAE 24%, China 16%, Singapore 14%, India 11%, Malaysia 6%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

390,670 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.12% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

homogeneous mixture of Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, Australasian, and African resulting from historical changes in regional hegemony over marine trade routes

Language

Dhivehi (official, dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English (spoken by most government officials)

Religion

Sunni Muslim (official)

